

# **SKIPPER NOTHILFE Rules for communication in WhatsApp groups**

## **1. General rules in skipper emergency aid**

### **WhatsApp Groups:**

The SNH WhatsApp groups are pure emergency communication-channels. If help is needed, then the call for help should also be observed accordingly. Therefore, in the WhatsApp groups general radio silence applies !!!

No other messages may be sent via the WhatsApp groups !

Prohibited are:

- Greetings (e.g. presentation of the person or your own boat)
- General communication

If a SNH-member is found who can help, communication should be made directly between the members and not in the group.

In the group should be posted if no further help is needed and gladly also a short info how the help has come about.

In each group, administrators ensure compliance with the rules, and if they are repeatedly violated, members are removed from the group.

### **How did I place an auxiliary request ?**

This WhatsApp message should have the following content :

- Ship type & ship name
- Current ship position or location (use location transfer from WhatsApp)
- Type of emergency (see also Emergency Guide)
- Type of help you want
- Urgency

If an aid operation is initiated and the situation is under control, a short message should be sent immediately in the WhatsApp group that the help operation is underway, and no further help is needed. This avoids unnecessary use.

### **How do I respond to a help request ?**

- Answers only if help can really be offered (it does not help if 100 participants come forward with "Sorry can't help"). As on radio channel 16, radio silence applies to all parties not involved.
- Help can be given in two ways.

Transmit helpful contact numbers for the person seeking help so that they can seek help there. or by providing assistance on the spot.

• If I am able to provide help, I contact with the following information :

- Type of assistance to be offered (direct aid on the spot))
- Own ship position (also approximately)
- Approximate time to reach the person seeking help
- If a help is accepted and initiated, the helper should report this briefly in the WhatsAppgroup.
- Detailed communication should then take place directly between the participants.

## **2. Emergency Guide - When can I call for the help of the skipper emergency help ?**

An emergency occurs when the skipper involuntarily suffers a technical defect due to a sudden external incident on his boat and is prevented from continuing.

Basically, the skipper can not provide emergency help ! The word PAUKE is often used as a donkey bridge. A sudden, from the outside, involuntary acting on the barge.

There are emergencies where every second is at stake.

For example, if the boat threatens to sink, oil or fuel runs into the water, or even if the skipper or crew member is injured. In these cases, professional help must always be called first via radio or telephone. This can be the sea rescue or in the inland area the 112. The skipper emergency assistance can in these cases only be an additional option. If there is no acute danger, then the skipper emergency aid can be called for help as a matter of priority. If the boat is incapable of manoeuvring after machine or rudder failure, another skipper can provide towing assistance to the nearest port.

### **This is always done at your own risk of the boat crews involved !!**

But a technical emergency can also occur in a port. An engine that stops jumping or another defect can paralyze the boat. If I am in my home port so this is annoying, but not a case for the skipper emergency aid ! No one has to leave their own berth. However, if I am on a (holiday) trip, then I cannot interrupt the trip indefinitely. As a rule, I have to be back in my home port on a certain date because the children have to go back to school and my boss is waiting for me at work. In a foreign environment, however, you lack local contacts and you do not know any specialist companies on site. Here you can make a call for help via the skipper emergency help. Either other skippers can help themselves or make contact. However, the prerequisite is always that the event occurred (suddenly) without warning. In addition, you should always ask the harbour master and / or the skipper at the jetty next door for help before reaching for your smartphone. In case of doubt, the group administrators can always be contacted as to whether the present problem entitles an emergency call. Administrators will also post the emergency call on Facebook or to a neighboring group if it makes sense.